(c) and (d) Stringent action is taken against the persons found involved in smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in the Courts. Apart from confiscation of the goods involved, imposition of personal penalties on the persons concerned, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to in appropriate cases.

Shortage of small coins and currency notes in Gujarat

381. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of small coins and currency notes in various districts of Bulsar, Vadodra, Surat, Khera and Anand;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether people in towns and cities particularly in villages are facing difficulties for getting the same;

(d) if so, what action has been taken to provide sufficient number of small coins and currency notes to them; and

(e) what are the details of small coins and currency notes given to various banks and other distributing agaencies in the above districts so far during 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and would be placed on the Table on the House.

Income-tax raids in Gujarat

382. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Income-tax raids and searches were conducted in various parts of Gujarat during 1st January, 1985 to 31st October, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what amount of concealed income has been detected during such raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the period 1st January, 1985 to 31st October 1985, Income-tax Department conducted 308 searches in Gujarat and seized prima-facie unaccounted assets worth Rs. 1.57 crores approximately.

Fake agencies recruiting labourers for sending abroad

383. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of fake agencies and agents are recruiting labourers for sending them to foreign countries;

(b) if so, what action has been taken against such agencies and agents during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from labourers during the above period; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken against each such agent/ agency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is not available. It will be laid on the table of the House when received.